

“Shadows of a Fleeting World provides”

Pictorialism emerged in the early twentieth century as a prominent style of fine art photography. Artists engaged in this style were interested in the effects of transient light and Japanese compositional elements. They developed innovative darkroom techniques to create unique soft-focus photographs that reflected contemporary painting styles. Historically, pictorial photography was narrowly defined by certain characteristics that gave an inaccurate assessment of its important contributions to the medium. Recent rediscoveries from American regional camera clubs, including the Seattle Camera Club (SCC), reveal that the movement was broader and more individualist than previously thought.

“Shadows of a Fleeting World provides” a rare glimpse into the regional Pictorialist movement. It documents the lives and artistic accomplishments of the SCC photographers. The SCC was one of the most active and successful in the United States, and, fortunately, preservation of its works and history allow for a rich interpretation of its art. Japanese immigrants formed the club's core, and their work routinely blended Pictorialist methods with Japanese aesthetic traditions. The Japanese-influenced Pictorialist works of the SCC made a unique contribution to the international art movement.

The book is generously illustrated with images and prints from SCC artists, many of which have never been published before.



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DAVID F. MARTIN David F. Martin is an independent arts researcher, curator and writer focusing on the art history of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest since 1986 as well as Western New York State since 1981. Many of the artists he has chosen to focus on are women, Asian Americans, gay & lesbian and other minorities who had established national and international reputations during the period 1890-1960.

He is the author of numerous regional books and catalogues and contributes essays and catalogue entries for national and international publications on painting, printmaking and photography. He is Consulting Curator for Cascadia Art Museum, Edmonds, Washington.

NICOLETTE BROMBERG is the Visual Materials Curator for Special Collections at the University of Washington Libraries for the past 15 years. She is in charge of over a million photographs. Previously she was the Visual Materials Curator for the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Photo-Archivist at the University of Kansas. She has written four books on topics in photography and teaches workshops in visual literacy and photograph collection management and preservation.

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1900s Pictorial photography and the Seattle Camera Club

April 8 2016 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Kent Commons



Enter the world of early 1900s and learn of the little-known story of Seattle’s amateur photographers who received national and international acclaim. Their work and lives are celebrated in this book and are shared by featured speakers Nicolette Bromberg and David Martin. A sampling of their photographs will be on display. The Seattle Camera Club and artistic contributions of great historical significance for generations to come.

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